Bangladeshis becoming citizens by obtaining ration cards

324. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lakhs of Bangladeshis have illegally immigrated in India and are gradually becoming citizens by obtaining Ration Cards etc.;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to check infiltration of such Bangladeshis; and

(c) whether any strategy has so far been formulated by Government to check infiltration of Bangladeshis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) India's long and porous border with Bangladesh, geographical proximity, family ties and ethnic similarity, coupled with better economic opportunities in India have resulted in illegal migration from Bangladesh. In addition, some Bangladeshi nationals, who enter India with valid travel documents, also tend to overstay for similar reasons.

Certain instances of some illegal immigrants from Bangladesh having obtained Ration Cards through fraudulent means have been reported. As and when such instances are detected, the concerned State Governments/Union Territory Administrations take necessary action for cancellation of their Ration Cards and further appropriate action as per the provisions of law.

Central Government is vested with the powers to deport a foreign national under section 3(2) (c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946. These powers to identify and deport illegally staying foreign nationals have also been delegated to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The procedure for the detection and deportation of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants has also been set out and circulated to State Governments/UT Administrations who are implementing the same on a continuous basis.

In order to check illegal immigration and infiltration from Bangladesh, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach which *inter-alia* includes the following measures:-

(i) Construction of border fencing, roads, and floodlighting.

(ii) Round the clock surveillance of the borders by Border Security Force.

(iii) Setting up of 1185 Border Out Posts (BOPs) along Indo-Bangladesh Border to reduce the inter BOP distance for effective border domination, of which 802 BOPs have already been established. Setting up of remaining 383 BOPs has been sanctioned.

(iv) Induction of hi-tech surveillance equipment including night vision devices.